

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. (GA-02) today joined with House colleagues to officially launch the newly-formed and bipartisan Congressional Military Family Caucus. Bishop, whose district includes Fort Benning and the Marine Corps Logistic Base – Albany, will serve as co-Chair of the Caucus along with Rep. Cathy McMorris-Rodgers, a Republican from the state of Washington.

More than 70 Members of the House of Representatives have signed on to become members of the Caucus, the purpose of which is to foster the interests of family members of the uniformed services by educating Members of Congress and their staff on the challenges that military families face on a daily basis. Among the guests at today's event was the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Mike Mullen.

"Often we recognize the sacrifices that our members of the military make without being fully aware of the tremendous hardships that their families must endure," Bishop said. "We formed the Congressional Military Family Caucus to shine a light on the special challenges our military families face and to determine and develop ways to address and resolve key issues that impact military families."

The Congressional Military Family Caucus will meet quarterly to discuss issues such as increasing family support, studying the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), the impact of back-to-back deployments on families, marriages, and mental health, as well as the impact that constant re-stationing has on education, spousal employment, and children's well-being.

"We fully understand that the strength of our military is drawn from the strength of their families and we want to do all we can to protect our warriors and their loved ones," Bishop said. "It is my sincere hope that the Congressional Military Family Caucus can, in some small way, honor our military families by telling their stories and working together to address their challenges."

The Caucus is tentatively planning to hold its first briefing in December with a panel discussion focused on the military education system. Representatives from the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense will be present, as well as outside groups such as the National Military Families Association, Military Families United, and the Military Officers Association of America.